

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R01012A000400030008-5

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY RESOURCES BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

30 November 1950

Office of the Chairman

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM H. JACKSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA

SUBJECT: Capability of USSR for Biological or Chemical Attacks Upon
the U.S. and the Probability of Such Biological or Chemical
Attacks Being Made

In planning for the civil defense of the United States and its possessions, the NSRB has considered the necessity for defense against any enemy attack with any known weapon.

NSRB has considered the possible use of chemical and biological agents. We do not have, however, the latest guidance regarding the capabilities of the USSR to attack with such weapons, nor the probability that the USSR will use such weapons in an attack upon the United States.

As guidance for our Civil Defense Planning Office, it would be appreciated if CIA could furnish the following information:

- a. The capability of the USSR to use chemical and/or biological agents in an attack upon the United States. An estimate of the USSR capability in this field should include, but should not necessarily be limited to, a discussion of the types of agents and the methods of delivery.
- b. The probability of the USSR launching such an attack under any one of several varying conditions, with an estimate as to the number of attacks which might be expected, the number and kind of targets and the method of and intensity of, any given delivery.
- c. Any information regarding probable effects of such attacks in terms of casualties, pollution, etc.
- d. Any other information related to the above which should necessarily be incorporated into civil defense planning.

Since there is a probability that NSRB will be testifying before Congress within the next few weeks on civil defense plans, it will be appreciated if this information could be secured as soon as possible.

DOCUMENT NO. 22
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
CLASS. CHANGED TO SECRET **1491**
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 22
AUTH: NR 70-2
DATE: 22 REVIEWER: 372044

/s/ Ramsey D. Potts, Jr.
Ramsey D. Potts, Jr.
Special Assistant to the Chairman

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